Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 L-03 /040 W

-----011626Z 024531 /44

O 011005Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4870

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CORRECTEDCOPY

PASS TO: AID/ASIA/BIS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, AGR, BG SUBJ: POL-480

REF: (A) STATE 123377, (B) DACCA 2777, (C) STATE 117021

- 1. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE MAY 26 DEMARCHE BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS TO AMB SIDDIQI ON US FOOD AID TO BANGLADESH AND YOUR PROMPT REPORT TO US. THIS COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY SHOULD HELP TO KEEP PL-480 NEGOTIATIONS PRINCIPALLY IN DACCA AND THUS STRENGTHEN U.S. MISSION'S POSITION IN NEGOTIATING AMENDMENT TO TITLE I AGREEMENT BEGINNING JUNE 1ST.
- 2. WE STRONGLY PREFER THAT THE DEPARTMENT NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE SIDDIQI WITH MORE DETAIL THAN SUMMARY TABLE GIVEN IN REF A, PARA 2.

OUR PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION IS THAT DATA SERIES REF C, PARA 2, DOES NOT JIBE WITH TABLE SIDDIQI NOW HAS. REF C DATA WAS TRANSMITTED BY MISSION TO DEPT IN RESPONSE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY. IT WAS, IN EFFECT, OUR WORST CASE JUDGEMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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E.G., HIGH OFFTAKES AND LOW DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT. THESE POINTS ARE DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL BELOW.

A. AS STATED REF B, PARA 2, THE BDG MUST PROCURE AT LEAST 250,000 MT DOMESTIC FOODGRAIN IN MONTHS NOVEMBER THRU JANUARY TO COME CLOSE TO 500,000 MT ANNUAL TARGET. IN POINT OF FACT, A HIGHER LEVEL, SAY 300 TO 325,000 MT IS PREFERABLE. WE TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO

REMIND BDG THAT WE ARE WATCHING THEIR PLANS FOR MEETING FY 77/78 DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT TARGET WHICH IS SET OUT CLEARLY IN AGREED MINUTES TO APRIL 1, 1977 TITLE I AGREEMENT. FOR THIS REASON ALONE, WE WOULD PREFER TO INCLUDE MONTHS NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER IN REPORTING PERIOD.

B. IN REF B, PARA 3 WE PRESENTED OUR RATIONALE FOR NOT SHARING OFFTAKE PROJECTIONS (REF C, PARA 2), WITH BDG. WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE BDG IMPRESSION THAT OUR EXPECTATIONS ARE ANY DIFFERENT FROM BEST EFFORTS LANGUAGE IN APRIL 1ST AGREEMENT TO CONSTRAIN STATUTORY RATION OFFTAKES. OUR GUESS IS THAT IF BDG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON LEARNS OF HIGHER PROJECTION THEY WOULD INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT WE ARE AGREEING TO LET SELF HELP LANGUAGE GO BY THE BOARDS. SUCH AN IMPRESSION WOULD HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON OUR NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED TITLE I AMENDMENT.

C. WE CONSIDER IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO REMIND THE BDG OF ITS OWN COMMITMENT (IN THE SELF HELP MEASURES) FOR A VIGOROUS PROCUREMENT DRIVE AND TO CONTRAIN OFFTAKES LEST THEY BE TEMPTED TO FULFILL THEIR OWN YEAR END PROPHECY, AS CONTAINED IN THEIR PROJECTIONS WHICH SHOW HIGH OFFTAKES AND LOW PROCUREMENT.

3. AS FOR THE REPEATED BDG CONTENTION (SEE PARA 7, REFTEL A) THAT IT TAKES FOUR MONTHS FOR SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT FOR US FOODGRAIN TO REACH BDG PORTS, THIS IS SIMPLY UNTRUE. WE NOTE (STAE 108244) FOR EXAMPLE THAT THE VESSEL QUA GEM IS TO ARRIVE AT CHITTAGONG O/A JUNE 10 WITH 42,000 MT OF WHEAT FROM THE APRIL 1 AGREEMENT. THE TIME PERIOD HERE IS ONLY TEN WEEKS. WE ASSUME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF DISASTROUS CROP LOSSES WERE TO OCCUR IN BANGLADESH, US COULD, IN FACT, RESPOND IN LESS THAN 10 WEEKS.

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